

Message Text

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ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 AID-05 DODE-00 PM-04 NSC-05
SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 MMO-01 OC-06
CCO-00 SY-05 PER-01 OPR-02 A-01 PC-01 NSCE-00
SSO-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 /078 R

DRAFTED BY AF/C:RST. POST:JR
APPROVED BY AF - TWSEELYE
AID/AFR/-MR. CYLKE (SUBS)
DOD/DIA - COL. HOLIMBERG (SUBS)
S/S-O:RPERITO

-----282040Z 120116 /73

O 282001Z MAY 77 ZFF4
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY ATHENS NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY NAIROBI NIACT IMMEDIATE
AMCONSUL STUTTGART NIACT IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 124533

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, ET, US

SUBJECT: EPMG-ORDERED STAFF REDUCTIONS

REFS: (A) ADDIS ABABA 3341 (B) STATE 105647

1. FOR PLANNING PURPOSES WE MUST, OF COURSE, PROCEED
ON THE ASSUMPTION THAT WE WILL HAVE TO COMPLY FULLY
WITH EPMG-ORDERED REDUCTIONS. COMPLIANCE WITH REDUCTION
BY HALF OF STAFF OTHER THAN MSG'S, DAO, AND AID WOULD
REQUIRE REDUCTION OF FIVE ADDITIONAL PERSONNEL FROM
PLAN OUTLINED REF B. REQUEST YOUR RECOMMENDATION
CONCERNING WHICH ADDITIONAL FIVE PERSONNEL SHOULD BE
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REDUCED.

2. IF SEVEN-DAY DEADLINE MAINTAINED, PHASED WITHDRAWAL
PLANNED FOR COMPLETION BY JULY 31 MUST OBVIOUSLY BE
STEPPED UP. ADVISE SOONEST IF AVAILABLE COMMERCIAL
AIR SUFFICIENT TO ACCOMPLISH SUCH A REDUCTION OR, IF
CHARTER FLIGHT FOR THIS PURPOSE REQUIRED, WHETHER

CHARTER CAN BE ARRANGED LOCALLY OR IF DEPARTMENT SHOULD ARRANGE CHARTER FROM ELSEWHERE. ADVISE MOST LIKELY ITINERARY FOR EVACUATED PERSONNEL (WE REPEATING REF A AND INFOING THIS TEL TO NAIROBI AND ATHENS ON ASSUMPTION ROUTING WOULD BE THROUGH EITHER OR BOTH THOSE CAPITALS.)

3. WE BELIEVE THAT EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO SECURE EPMG CONCURRENCE WITH REF B PLANNED REDUCTION. YOU SHOULD ACCORDINGLY APPROACH EPMG AT LEVEL YOU CONSIDER MOST LIKELY PRODUCE RESULTS TO POINT OUT THAT, AS EPMG HAS BEEN INFORMED, WE HAD STUDIED QUESTION OF REDUCING USG STAFF IN ADDIS TO BRING IT DOWN TO A LEVEL MORE APPROPRIATE TO MAINTENANCE AND SUPPORT OF USG OPERATIONS FOLLOWING APRIL EXPULSIONS. AS RESULT OUR STUDY, WE HAD DEVELOPED PLAN FOR ORDERLY PHASED REDUCTION BY JULY 31 TO A LEVEL OF ROUGHLY HALF OUR CURRENT STAFF WHICH REPRESENTS IN OUR VIEW A RATIONAL STAFFING PATTERN COMPATIBLE WITH OUR REDUCED ACTIVITIES. WE CONSIDER THAT REDUCTION OF MSG DETACHMENT FROM 10 TO 6 REPRESENTS REASONABLE LEVEL COMMENSURATE WITH CONTINUING NEED FOR MINIMAL SECURITY COVERAGE AND WE WOULD HOPE EPMG WOULD ACCEPT REASONABLENESS OF THIS REDUCTION. AS TO DAO, WE HAD ENVISAGED REDUCTION FROM 6 TO 2 AS REASONABLE IN LIGHT OUR REDUCED MILITARY RELATIONSHIP WITH EPMG AND CONTINUED DESIRABILITY MAINTAIN MILITARY-LEVEL CONTACTS WITH MILITARY GOVERNMENT THOUGH WE ARE PREPARED TO COMPLY WITH THEIR REQUEST, IF THEY INSIST, TO CLOSE OUR DAO. AS TO PERSONNEL OTHER THAN MSG'S, AID, AND DAO, WE
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HAD PLANNED FOR REDUCTION FROM 47 TO 29, WHICH WE WOULD HOPE EPMG WOULD ACCEPT AS REASONABLE APPROXIMATION OF REDUCTION DESIRED BY THEM. YOU SHOULD URGE EPMG TO ACQUIESCE IN OUR PLANNED REDUCTION BOTH WITH REGARD SIZE AND TIMING.

4. IF EPMG INSISTS ON SEVEN-DAY DEADLINE, YOU SHOULD REQUEST EXTENSION FOR ADDITIONAL SEVEN DAYS. IF EXTENSION FOR SEVEN DAYS REFUSED, YOU SHOULD URGE THEY AT MINIMUM MAKE DEADLINE APPLICABLE TO WORKING DAYS.

5. WITH RESPECT TO AID PERSONNEL, SINCE THEY HAVE BEEN EXCLUDED FROM EPMG-ORDERED REDUCTIONS, IT OCCURS TO US THAT INFORMING EPMG NOW OF OUR PLANNED REDUCTION FROM 28 TO 8 MIGHT BE PROVOCATIVE, STIMULATING EPMG EITHER TO INSIST ON LETTER OF ITS ORDERED REDUCTIONS AND TIMING OR EVEN TO TAKE ADDITIONAL HOSTILE ACTION. IF YOU AGREE, YOU SHOULD THEREFORE REFRAIN FROM MENTIONING THOSE REDUCTIONS AT THIS TIME. IF, ON THE

OTHER HAND, YOU FEEL THAT INFORMING THEM OF PLANNED AID REDUCTION WOULD SECURE EPMG ACCEPTANCE OF OUR OWN REDUCTION PLAN, SINCE IT WOULD RESULT IN OVER-ALL 50 PERCENT REDUCTION OF US STAFF (WHILE THEIR FORMULA WOULD REPRESENT ONLY ONE-THIRD OVER-ALL REDUCTION), YOU MAY INCLUDE MENTION OF THIS REDUCTION IN DEMARCHE.

YOU SHOULD NOTE THAT WE ENVISAGED WITH THE REDUCED AID MISSION CONTINUING PRESENT ON-GOING ACTIVITIES.

6. YOU MAY BEGIN INCURRING OBLIGATIONS FOR PACKING AND CRATING OF PERSONAL EFFECTS IN ANTICIPATION OF TRAVEL ORDERS FOR DEPARTING PERSONNEL. VANCE

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